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7	**************************************
8	OF SWORN STATEMENT
9	OF JOSHUA FIELDS,
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15	taken on behalf of the Insurance Company before a
16	Certified Shorthand Reporter of Oklahoma at 1324 East
17	Grand Avenue, Ponca City, Kay County, Oklahoma, on Thursday, March 18, 2021, starting at 10:05 a.m.
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21	REPORTED BY:
22	Sonya Kay Meneely, CSR
23	SCRIBE REPORTING SERVICES WWW.OKREPORTERS.COM
24	
25	EXHIBIT 1

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1	<u>APPEARANCES:</u>	
2		
3		
4		
5	THE WITNESS APPEARED BY HIS COUNSEL:	
6	Mr. Scott R. Jackson	
7	Martin, Jean & Jackson	
8	1324 East Grand Avenue	
9	Ponca City, Oklahoma 74601	
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13	THE INSURANCE COMPANY APPEARED BY ITS COUNSEL:	
14	Mr. Michael S. Linscott	
15	Doerner, Saunders, Daniel & Anderson	
16	William sCenter Tower II	
17	Two West Second Street, Suite 700	
18	Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103	
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			3
1	INDEX		
2			
3	WITNESS	PAGE	
4	JOSHUA FIELDS		
5	Examination by Mr. Linscott	4	
6			
7			
8	EXHIBITS MARKED		
9	No. 1 - nine-page Limited		
10	Multi-Peril Survey	8	
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18	CERTIFICATE OF CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER	49	
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			

1 JOSHUA FIELDS, 2 of lawful age, having been first duly sworn on his oath 3 to state the truth, and nothing but the truth, states as follows: 4 5 EXAMINATION 6 BY MR. LINSCOTT: 7 Okay. Mr. Fields, if you would state your 8 full name for the record. 9 Α. Joshua Charles Fields. 10 Okay. And we've already established you are Q. 11 not the Josh Fields that beat OU a few years ago --12 No, sir. Α. 13 Q. -- as quarterback. 14 All right. My name is Mike Linscott and I'm 15 here representing the insurance company that had the 16 insurance on the property that is at issue that burned. 17 Okay? And that's what we're here to talk about today. 18 Do you understand that? 19 Yes, sir. Α. 20 Okay. And this is an examination under oath 21 so you've been sworn in to tell the truth just as if you were in front of a judge and a jury. Right? 22 23 Yes, sir. Α. 2.4 Okay. And this -- we think we established Q.

this off the record, but there is not a lawsuit filed

25

at this time by you against the insurance company or others related to this fire. Is that correct?

- A. I believe that's correct. Yes.
- Q. Okay. All right. I'm going to ask you some questions and try to get very focused to just things about the policy and the event, you know, with the building in question and so forth.

If I ask you something that you don't understand, or more likely I don't make very clear, ask me to clarify it. Is that okay?

A. Okay.

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- Q. And if you do that -- otherwise, we'll assume you understood the question when you answer it. Okay?
  - A. (Affirmative head nod.)
  - Q. And you'll have to say yes or no.
- A. Yes. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.
- Q. Hard to do.
  - A. I get it. I get it.
  - Q. And sometimes this may wind up being like conversation, but it's tough on the court reporter and we need to have a good record for this.
    - A. Can't hear my head rattle. I get it.
- Q. Well, yeah. We just have to say something and it can't be uh-huh, huh-uh. Yes or no.
  - A. Yes.

- Q. And then I need to let you finish, okay, before I start asking a question. And if you'll show the same courtesy to me, again, that will help the court reporter. Is that okay?
  - A. Yes.

- Q. All right. The Examination Under Oath, I'll just tell you from our perspective is pursuant to the policy. It's your cooperation, you know, with assisting us in trying to determine coverage that you have. Do you understand that?
  - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. All right. And I do appreciate you being here today.
- Okay. The policy in question, do you know how long you've had that policy on that property?
- A. That policy? I mean, I don't really know how insurance policies work, but I had insured it when I bought it through Zac Swords, and then he sold his insurance policies to somebody in Tonkawa, or Randall or something. And I think that -- so I'd had it for as long as I'd owned the building.
- Q. And how long -- when did you buy the building?

  Do you recall?
- THE WITNESS: Scott, we talked about that the other day. What did I tell you? 2010 or '11

maybe?

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## BY MR. LINSCOTT:

- Q. And look. This is just to the best of your knowledge. I know that there may be some records that we could look at and I know we have something on it.

  I'm just trying to see what you know now.
  - A. Yeah.
    - Q. And then if you don't know --
  - A. I don't know.
  - Q. -- then don't hesitate to say that.
  - A. I don't know for sure.
- Q. Okay. All right. There was a -- do you recall having an inspector with someone called Reliable Inspections contact you back in 2015 about the building, about inspecting the building and asking you some questions about that?
- A. I don't recall that. I know that I have had inspectors from time to time to rental properties, yes.
- Q. Okay. And so -- okay. Well, I'm going to show you a report here in just a minute from that. But I was just wondering if you happen to remember that, where they were -- where the inspector was looking at and asking questions of whether or not you had any type of fire protection device or devices in the building. Do you recall that better now?

1 Α. No. 2 MR. LINSCOTT: Okay. All right. Let's 3 mark one thing here as an exhibit here. Let me find it first. Okay. I've just got two of these, so I'm going 4 5 to let you look at it and then let me mark this one. (Exhibit Number 1 was marked for 6 7 identification.) 8 MR. JACKSON: Okay. Take a look at that 9 real quick. Can we make another copy? Do you mind? 10 MR. LINSCOTT: I don't mind a bit. (An off-the-record discussion was here had, 11 12 followed by a brief recess.) 13 BY MR. LINSCOTT: 14 Q. Okay. Well, let's go back on the record. 15 All right. I handed you what is marked as 16 Exhibit 1 to your Examination Under Oath and I'll just 17 tell you the title of it. It was generated by a 18 company called Reliable Reports of Texas. I think I 19 said Reliable Inspections. My apologies. It's called 20 a Limited Multi-Peril Survey. And you've had a chance 21 to look it over? 22 Α. Yes. 23 Okay. I'll ask you a few questions. But Q. 2.4 first off, the front page of it, it has a For

Completion by the Insured. Do you see that?

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1 It says what now? Α. 2 Q. In the middle of the page it says --3 Oh, yeah. Α. 4 Q. Do you see that? 5 Yeah. Α. 6 And it has a part where printed name is Josh Q. 7 Fields? 8 Α. Yes. 9 Q. Do you recall printing your name in there? 10 I don't think I printed that, but ... Α. 11 Q. Okay. Is the signature on here your 12 signature? 13 It looks like it could be, yes. Α. 14 Q. Well, I need to know if it is or not. 15 Yes, sir. Yes. Α. 16 Okay. If it's not, someone else did it and I Q. 17 need to know who that was. But anyway, if it's your 18 signature just ... 19 Α. It resembles my signature. 20 Okay. Do you --Q. 21 But I don't remember it and my signature may 22 have changed a little over the last six years. 23 Okay. Do you recall reviewing this and then Q. signing it, recognizing what it says in here, that it 24

says: Certified that all required recommendations

25

found during the recently-conducted inspection have been fully complied with as of July 23, 2015.

Do you recall reading this and signing that?

- A. Do I recall, no. But do I remember an insurance, yes.
- Q. Okay. Do you recall -- does this help or maybe you had -- excuse me. Not maybe -- that you had a phone call with a Jack McNeal of RRI here, Reliable Reports, about your building back in July of 2015?
  - A. No.

- Q. Okay. If he was to indicate that he had such a phone call with you, do you think he'd be mistaken in some way?
- A. No. I don't think that he'd be mistaken. I just don't recall a phone conversation.
- Q. Okay. All right. It says the property location is 410 West Cleveland. Is that the property that you've got the claim on?
  - A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. And is it fair to say that's an apartment building?
  - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. If you'll turn in to this about three pages or so, four I guess it is, there is some pictures. Do you see those?

1 Α. Yes. 2 Okay. I want to make sure we're talking about 3 the same building. That's it. 4 Α. 5 Is that it? Okay. And then it looks like a Q. 6 front and a back view. Is that correct? 7 Well, no. Excuse me. Two front views, I 8 quess. 9 Α. That's two front views on that page. 10 Okay. And then the next page, it says inside Q. 11 stairway, and then the next one is rear? 12 Yes. Α. 13 Are those correctly identified? Q. 14 Α. Yes. 15 Okay. And the stairway, that's an exterior -is that an exterior stairway down there where it's open 16 17 on either end of the building, the stairway is? 18 Α. The hallway is open on either end. The 19 stairwell --20 Yeah. Yeah. I'm sorry. Okay. You're Q. 21 saying on either end of that hallway that the stairway 22 is open? 23 Α. Yes. 24 Okay. And do you remember whether Mr. McNeal Q. 25 actually went inside any of the apartments? Do you

know?

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- A. I would venture to say he didn't, but I don't know that.
- Q. Okay. All right. My understanding is that he did not and that the information about what I'm going to ask you about what's inside came from you on a phone call.
  - A. Okay.
- Q. But I'll -- we'll get to that here in just a minute.
- Okay. If you look at the next page, it has a couple what looks like garages or Buildings 2 and 3.

  Do you see that?
- II A. Yes.
  - Q. What are those?
  - A. They were I think originally designed to be storage units for the tenants.
    - Q. Okay.
  - A. We pretty much just used them for storage, supplies for maintenance.
  - Q. Okay. And then the next page shows overgrown bushes and then concrete blocks that are -- it says craked, but I assume that meant cracked.
    - A. Yes.
    - Q. Okay. All right. Do these -- and then the

back page just shows the rear again of the building, two pictures; is that right?

- A. Yes.
- Q. And then the next last page --
- A. Uhm --

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- Q. Oh, sorry. Go ahead.
- A. Yeah. That is the rear.
- Q. Okay. And then the last page is peeling paint on the facia board. Do you see that?
  - A. Yep.
- Q. Okay. All right. Now, if you go back to the front page underneath at the top of it, it says recommendations. Do you see that?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. So the first one here, he notes some deficiencies. And it's like it says -- oh, he notes the cracks in the exterior wall of the garage and storage buildings, trees touching the storage buildings, a window on the main building is being boarded over. And then it suggests that a licensed contractor should be retained to evaluate and repair these deficiencies, the cracks in the concrete blocks and mortar in both the garage and the buildings, and the cracks -- excuse me -- on the west side of the garage storage building.

Did I read that, summarize that roughly?

A. I think so.

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- Q. Okay. Did you -- were you aware of these suggestions that I just referred to in that paragraph?
- A. I don't recall them, but I mean, I'm aware of the cracks in the walls, yes.
  - Q. Okay.
- A. And I do remember going and trimming trees at some point because of insurance reasons.
- Q. Okay. And do you recall taking -- doing these -- do you recall whether or not these suggestions, whether you completed or followed the suggestions and did them?
- A. I never did anything with the cinder block walls, no.
- Q. Okay. But everything else?
- A. I would assume. I've bought lots of windows in my days, so I would assume that I replaced the window.
  - Q. Okay.
- A. I'm not -- I'm not even sure that the garages were part of the insurance policy on that, so I'm not sure it was even any of their concern.
- Q. Okay. The next one has to do with smoke detectors. Let me just ask this generally: Were there

smoke detectors inside the building at the time of this inspection in '15?

A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. And were they -- do you recall whether you specifically --
- A. Well, let me back up. I assume there was smoke detectors inside the building. I can't -- I mean, I didn't go in every apartment that day when he did the inspection and verify.
  - Q. Okay.
- A. But we were pretty adamant about keeping smoke detectors within the building.
- Q. Okay. So I guess as I sit here, their recommendation -- let me ask it this way. Scratch that.

The second recommendation there marked, you know, 5-2-2015, it says it recommends a maintenance program should be implemented for the smoke detectors with batteries being tested on a monthly basis and batteries being completely replaced every six months. Written documentation should be retained regarding testing and replacement.

Did I read that correctly?

- A. I'm not reading it, but I would -- yes. Yes.
- Q. Do you -- well, let me ask this: Did you do

something? Did you do that? Did you implement a program for the smoke detectors, replacing the batteries and replacing any units and then documenting it?

- A. Every time somebody moved out before somebody moved in, we checked the smoke detectors, replaced the smoke detector if it didn't work.
  - Q. Okay.

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- A. So, yes. Yes.
- Q. Did you document that in some way?
- A. No, sir.
- Q. Okay. All right. Would you have -- I mean, each time you did that would you have receipts or would you use it -- you know, keep it for tax reasons or anything like that?
  - A. No, sir.
- Q. Okay. Let me go to the last one here. On the -- it says all exterior having three or more steps should be provided with handrails on both sides to reduce the potential for falls. Handrails, and it gives a description of the height and length.

Did you do that?

- A. I don't know that I have any exterior stairs with three or more steps, so I would say no.
  - Q. Okay. Would you call the stairway we were

17 looking at in the picture an exterior stair or not? 1 2 No, sir. That's an interior stair. 3 Q. Okay. 4 Α. And we did install handrails there, actually, 5 since you mentioned it. Yeah. It looks like there's handrails on it. 6 7 It was in the picture. There was handrails Α. 8 there. 9 Q. Okay. 10 But that's an interior stairwell. That's not 11 an exterior stairwell. Okay. Inside the building, okay, do you 12 13 access -- do people access their apartments through 14 doors that are inside off a hallway or are they 15 exterior? 16 They're interior doors. 17 Okay. So in the -- is there a common --Q. 18 scratch that. 19 Is there a --20 Corridor? Α. 21 -- interior corridor for the apartments? Q. 22 Α. Yes, sir. 23 And that is interior; right? Q. 24 Yes, sir. Α. 25 And then you have fire detection, fire/smoke Q.

detectors in the hallway that was interior?

- A. There may have been one upstairs but I can't -- I don't recall. I don't know. We had several problems with people. If you left anything where the general public could get to it, it would walk off.
  - Q. Okay.

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- A. So I don't know if it was there at the time or not, no.
- Q. Okay. Do you recall replacing fire or smoke detectors in the hallways between the apartments, you know, where the people access their apartments from, do you recall replacing the batteries in those?
  - A. Me personally, no.
  - Q. Or having someone doing it?
- A. I just got smoke detectors when I was told we needed smoke detectors or batteries.
- 17 | Q. Do you have a property manager?
  - A. I had a guy that lived there that took care of everything, yes.
    - Q. Okay. And what was his name?
- 21 A. Keith Crawford.
  - Q. Okay. Do you know if Keith Crawford is still around or working with you?
  - A. He's not in Oklahoma anymore. He's moved to Arkansas the last I knew.

- Q. Okay. How long ago was that that he left?
- A. I would be guessing, but I would say -- what is this? I would say eight months.
- Q. Okay. So he was there when the fire occurred? Is that true?
  - A. He was working for me then.

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- Q. Okay. Yeah. Doesn't mean he was actually on site, though; right?
  - A. Yeah. No. Nobody was on site.
- Q. Okay. And I'm getting to that.
  - Okay. So Keith Crawford would have been -would he have been, at that time of the fire, would he
    have been working as a property manager for you or
    doing odd jobs at the site?
  - A. He was in the process of remodeling the building.
  - Q. Okay. Okay. Let's see. The fire occurred on, what, March 25th of 2020? Is that right?
    - A. I believe that's close.
      - Q. Okay. That's what I have here.
- A. That's what my pictures were dated. I took pictures of it the night of.
  - Q. Okay.
  - A. Or the morning of.
- 25 Q. Have you provided those pictures to the

insurance company?

- A. I haven't ever talked to the insurance company.
- Q. Ahh. Okay. Okay. I'll get to that in just a minute.

Okay. On the smoke detectors, so if anyone ——
is this accurate to say: If anyone made sure that the
smoke detectors were, one, there either in the
apartment or in the hallways, and had fresh batteries,
would that have been Mr. Crawford?

- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. And was he directed to take care of that?
  - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. Sometimes you hire someone as property man and they just know to do it. I was just wondering if you particularly directed, hey, you need to make sure you --
- A. He was one you had to give pretty good direction to.
  - Q. Okay. And you remember doing that?
- A. Oh, yes.
- Q. Okay. All right. How about fire extinguishers? Do you recall whether there were fire extinguishers in the common area, the hallway?

I don't think so. I don't know what other

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Α.

types of fire devices there are.

- Q. Okay. Do you believe at the time of the fire that there was smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in the apartments and in the hallways?
  - A. I do not.

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- Q. Okay. Why do you think they were not?
- A. Because I directed Keith to remove them.
- Q. Okay. And when did you direct Keith to remove them?
- A. When we started gutting -- or cleaning out the building to start remodel.
- Q. Okay. And when was -- when was that? When did you gut the building to start remodel?
- A. Well, we never gutted it. We started cleaning it out, but that would have been, best estimate, first part of February, 2020.
- Q. Okay. So okay. The first part of February. Is there a way that you can identify the date where the tenants were not in the building any longer and you -- maybe let me start with that; that you did not have any more tenants living in the building. During -- for this remodel, I mean. Sorry.
- A. I have a tenant that could tell me when he moved out, which I believe would have been January 30th or January 31st when I told them they had to be out.

23 1 Q. Okay. 2 And then there was another tenant there that 3 moved out a day or two after. 4 Q. Okay. Do you know the names of these tenants? 5 Α. The one that I talked to, his name is Keith 6 Alston. 7 Q. And that's the one that you think would have 8 left on January --He left right at the end of January. 9 Α. 10 Okay. So you're thinking he left by January Q. 11 30th or 31st? 12 I would say yes. Α. 13 Okay. And that's Keith Alston. Do you have Q. 14 any contact information for him? 15 Α. Yes. 16 Q. Okay. Would you mind providing that to us? 17 No, sir. Α. 18 Q. Just through your counsel. 19 Yeah. He has it. I've given it to him. Α. 20 Oh, okay. Q. 21 MR. JACKSON: I was going to look. 22 think Josh's wife actually was able to find him and 23 sent that to me maybe last night or today. 24 MR. LINSCOTT: Okay. Okay.

MR. JACKSON: I'll look for it and see.

## BY MR. LINSCOTT:

- Q. (By Mr. Linscott) What about the other one? You said there was somebody else that may have still been there?
- A. I don't know her name. She lived above Keith and I don't recall her name.
- Q. Okay. Do you have any records that might show when she left? We're just -- all I'm looking to do is try and establish when the last person was moved out before the fire.
  - A. No, sir. I don't have any records of that.
- Q. Okay. Okay. Now, let me ask this: Prior to that -- okay. How many apartments are there in that -- in that building?
  - A. Eight.
- Q. Okay. And when did you make the decision to remodel the apartments?
- A. I don't know exact date. It was something that was in the process. I mean, I'd been kicking it around for some time and so I just -- it was just like, all right, this is -- I don't know. I guess I don't know the date.
- Q. Okay. And I guess I'm asking for generalities. And if you don't know, that's fine.

  I'm just thinking was it like, you know, the last part

- of 2019. Was it January? You know, I don't know.
- A. It had to of been towards the end of 2019.
  - Q. Okay.

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- A. Because I told those tenants they had to leave, we were emptying the building for work.
- Q. Okay. So did -- can you tell me that, you know, by the -- oh, at some point in time, let's say by January 1, how many apartments had people living in them?
- A. By January 1?
  - Q. January 1 of 2020.
- A. I would say four.
- Q. Okay. And say by January 15th.
- 14 | A. Two.
  - Q. Okay. So of the eight apartments, two had people in them and that's the two we're talking about, right, Keith Alston and the woman who we can't -- we don't know her name; right?
  - A. Yes.
  - Q. Okay. Do you have any records that show that, that it would be on or before January 15th?
    - A. No. The records are pretty -- no. I don't.
  - Q. Okay. All right. Do you recall whether any of the windows were boarded up prior to the fire?
    - A. I boarded up all the windows.

26 All of them were? 1 Q. 2 Α. Yes. 3 Okay. And do you recall when that was done? Q. I believe that I did that the first weekend in 4 Α. 5 February or maybe the last weekend in January. 6 Q. Okay. 7 And then all except for the one where the lady Α. 8 was upstairs, I didn't board hers up because she was 9 still getting stuff out. 10 I see. Ο. 11 She had moved out but she had -- she had so 12 much stuff in there. Anyway, she was getting that 13 stuff out and so I left her windows unboarded. 14 Q. Okay. 15 Until she had moved out completely. 16 Q. All right. Did she live in that apartment by 17 herself? 18 Α. I believe she had maybe her daughter and a child there. I don't know. I don't remember. 19 Okay. Okay. Well, let me ask about the fire. 20 Q. 21 Do you -- do you recall or do you have any -- scratch 22 that. Let me think. 23 Do you know how the fire started?

SCRIBE REPORTING

Okay. Have you talked to any fire inspectors

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No.

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Q.

27 about the fire? 1 2 The one the insurance adjuster sent. Or not 3 the adjuster. The insurance company, I guess. 4 Q. Was that a company called Rimkus? 5 Α. I couldn't tell you. 6 Q. Okay. 7 It's been a year. Α. 8 0. Right. Do you remember his name, by chance? 9 Α. No. 10 Okay. Did you talk to anyone with the fire Q. 11 department here in Ponca City, or police about the fire? 12 13 The police -- so the night of the fire, of Α. 14 course, I talked to some firemen. I talked to a 15 detective a day or two after the fire. But because of 16 COVID, I couldn't go to the police department and talk 17 to him about it. 18 Q. Right. 19 I don't recall if I ever talked to the fire 20 martial or fire chief about it at any time. I don't 21 recall that. 22 Q. Okay. 23 I do remember talking to the fire investigator Α. 24 because that job intrigued me. I think it's an 25 interesting job, so I went to let him in and then

talked -- you know, I visited with him while he was there.

- Q. Do you remember his name, by chance?
- A. No.

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- Q. Okay. Did he indicate to you what he thought was the cause of the fire?
- A. I remember he had a general idea where he thought the fire started.
  - Q. Okay.
- A. And at that point I told him that I had a heater that sat there, so he kind of maybe thought that that was the cause of the fire.
- Q. Okay. Do you recall that being near a stairwell?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. All right. I'm assuming nobody was living there and so they didn't -- so no one got hurt as a result of the fire. Is that correct?
- A. Not that I'm aware of.
  - Q. Okay. How did you learn about the fire?
- A. My wife's friend came banging on my front door at 1:00 in the morning or something. I don't remember.
- Q. Okay. I know there was some -- I think there was some communications from Mr. Jackson to the adjustor on your case about the building maybe possibly

needing to be demolished or whatnot. What's the status of the building now as we sit here?

- A. It's sitting there.
- Q. It's still there? Okay. The City or anyone hasn't pushed you to -- I used the word push. It's probably not the right word. but asked you to tear it down?
  - A. They did push very hard.
  - Q. Okay.
  - A. And Scott got them to back off.
- Q. Okay.

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- A. It's, I think, \$20,000 to demo the building.
- Q. Right. Right. And that's what I needed to know. Have you -- you answered it, but have you got an estimate of some kind of demo'ing the building?
  - A. Yeah. About \$20,000.
- Q. Okay. And do you know whether or not the insurance company has any figures on that for demo'ing the building?
  - A. Never heard from them.
- Q. Okay. Well, that's -- yeah. Let me ask just a couple questions about that. I'm mainly interested in the claim itself and the property, but have you had any communications with the insurance company by telephone?

- A. The insurance company, not that I -- not that I recall.
  - Q. Okay. Well, or someone on their behalf?
  - A. I've talked to an insurance adjuster.
  - Q. Do you remember his name?
  - A. No.

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- Q. Was it a Kevin Wilson, by chance?
- A. That sounds familiar.
- Q. Okay. All right. And can you give me an idea of the substance of those conversations? I'm not trying to get specifics down to each one, but what you remember of them.
  - A. Me asking him why I wasn't hearing anything.
  - Q. Okay.
- A. Him telling me that -- I think he sent me an email maybe, I don't remember, that basically they didn't know if they were going to pay the claim. I asked him if I needed to get my attorney involved.
  - Q. Okay.
  - A. He told me no, that I didn't need to do that.
- 21 | Q. Okay.
  - A. I would just be wasting my money. And I got

    -- I got kind of heated and I said my attorney is the

    type of attorney that's going to do it and for way more

    than what the claim is, and then he's going to get his

31 1 cut. 2 So I felt like I was being taken advantage of, 3 I quess. Okay. When was the last time that you talked 4 Q. 5 with either Kevin or anyone else from the insurance company other than me here today? 6 7 My guess would have been May. Α. 8 Ο. May? 9 Α. Would be my guess. 10 Okay. And then other than that, Q. 11 though, Mr. Jackson has had some communications with 12 them. Are you aware of that? 13 Α. Yes. 14 Q. Okay. All right. I believe. 15 Α. 16 I mean, other than me. Q. 17 No. I mean, I know that Scott had emailed Α. 18 them and hadn't had any responses and then finally got 19 a response here just recently. Okay. Were you -- are you aware of any 20 Q. 21 requirements -- not requirements. Let me scratch that. 22 Are you aware of provisions in the insurance 23 policy regarding, you know, smoke detectors and fire 2.4 extinguishers and that sort of thing?

It was listed in a letter that I received,

yes.

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- Q. Okay. And the letter, would that have been back at the time of the policy issuance or after you made the claim?
  - A. After I made the claim.
- Q. Might have been called something like a reservation of rights?
  - A. Yes. Yeah.
- Q. Okay. All right. And so that -- but prior to that, were you aware of that type of language in the policy, you know, at the time that you purchased the policy?
  - A. If you're asking me if I read the policy, no.
- Q. Okay. All right. Let me ask -- okay. Let me ask the same type of questions about vacancy.
- Okay. Were you aware of there being issues -not issues but provisions in the policy that relate to
  coverage in times of remodeling or vacancy and that
  kind of thing?
  - A. After I received the letter of reservations.
  - Q. Okay. But not before?
  - A. Not before.
- Q. Okay. Did those subjects at all -- scratch that.
- Did you -- when you got the policy, did you

get that through an agent?

A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. Okay. Tell me -- remind me the name of the agent. Swords?
  - A. Originally it was Swords. Yes.
- Q. Okay. We talked about his name. And then now is it someone -- would it have been someone different prior to the fire?
  - A. Kevin Randall, I believe is his name.
- Q. Kevin Randall. Okay. Did they at any point explain to you generally -- well, not generally. Scratch that.

Did they explain to you the terms of the policy, about you know, what it covered and what it wouldn't cover and that kind of thing?

- A. No, sir.
- Q. Okay. And did they -- did you ever have questions you asked of them about coverage that you -- that they didn't answer? So I mean, my point there is did you ask something and then they didn't get back to you on it?
  - A. No. I mean, I don't think so.
- Q. Okay. All right. Let me get back to the fire. You say a neighbor kind of came and got you, you know, and told you about the fire occurring at the

34 1 time? 2 It wasn't a neighbor. It was my wife's 3 friend. 4 Oh, okay. I apologize. So did you go down Q. 5 there then? 6 Oh, yes. Α. 7 Okay. Was there already fire and police Q. 8 there? 9 Α. It was -- yeah. 10 They were there? Q. 11 Α. Yeah. 12 Okay. All right. Q. 13 My wife's friend saw on Facebook Live. Α. 14 Q. Okay. And so I had -- I turn my phone on silent when 15 Α. I go to bed at night and so they called me like 25 16 17 times and I didn't answer. 18 Q. Okay. 19 And so that's why they came to my house. Α. 20 Have you had a fire there before? Q. 21 Yes. Α. 22 Okay. Do you recall when that was? Q. 23 Right after I bought the building, I believe. Α. 24 Was it like 12 years ago, 11 years ago, Q. 25 something like that?

- A. Probably something like that.
- Q. Again, I need to let you finish first before I start talking again.
- A. And I'm not even sure if I -- I don't know if it's when I owned the building or it's when me and my business partners owned the building before.
  - Q. Okay.

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- A. Somebody had set some trash on fire in the stairwell. It wasn't much of a fire. It was more of a nuisance.
  - Q. Okay. Did you have a claim for that?
- 12 | A. Oh, yes.
  - Q. Okay. And was it the same insurance company?
- 14 | A. I don't recall.
- 15 | Q. Same policy?
- 16 A. I would assume so.
  - Q. You think it was the same -- well, scratch that.
- 19 You think it was the same agent and --
  - A. I don't recall.
    - Q. Don't recall. Okay. So when you first owned the building, it was with other -- you had business partners in it?
  - A. Yes, sir. We had a corporation.
  - Q. Okay. And did you ultimately wind up the sole

36 1 owner of the building? 2 Α. Yes, sir. 3 Do you recall when that year was, what year Q. 4 that would be? 5 2011-ish. Ish. Α. Okay. Okay. So that's like ten years from 6 7 now. Nine years before the fire that we're here on? I think. I don't -- don't hold me to that. 8 9 Okay. Okay. Did the -- let me -- I may have Q. 10 asked this a moment ago, but when you talked with the 11 fire inspectors, did they -- the one that was with the 12 -- I guess it's the City, right, Ponca City? 13 Uh-huh. Α. 14 You have you to say yes or no. Q. 15 Oh, when I talked to the fire inspector for Α. 16 Ponca City? 17 He was with Ponca City, right, and you did Q. 18 talk to him? 19 When? Α. 20 At some point. Q. 21 Α. I don't know. 22 Well, we talked about it a minute ago. Let me Q. 23 get us back to that. When did you -- when did you

first talk with the inspector from Ponca City, fire

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inspector?

I don't know that I did. 1 2 Q. Okay. I misunderstood you. I thought you 3 said that you did. I don't think so. 4 Α. Okay. You thought he had an interesting job? 5 Q. That was the one the insurance guy sent. 6 Α. 7 Oh, okay. Okay. That was confusing. Q. 8 Α. No. That was the one the insurance guy sent 9 or the insurance company sent. 10 Okay. So you don't recall ever talking to 0. 11 anyone from the City fire department about this? I don't recall that. 12 13 Okay. Okay. Did the police take a statement Q. 14 from you? 15 Α. They did not. Okay. And obviously you would remember if it 16 Q. 17 was someone with the fire department? They didn't take 18 a statement from you? Not that I recall. 19 Α. 20 Okay. All right. Do you know whether Q. 21 Mr. Crawford was there the night of the fire? 22 Not that I'm aware of. Α. 23 Okay. Do you know whether he was interviewed Q. 2.4 by the police or the fire department in their

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investigation?

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A. Not that I'm aware of.

MR. LINSCOTT: Okay. Okay. All right.

Okay. Let's take a short break because I want to move on to another area and then we won't have that much more.

MR. JACKSON: Sounds good.

(A brief recess was here had.)

### BY MR. LINSCOTT:

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- Q. Okay. Mr. Fields, let me ask a couple questions back on this Exhibit 1. If you'll look on page -- I think it's Page 2, the second page of it, I think I asked you earlier about providing any information in a phone call. And I think you weren't sure, you didn't remember it specifically?
  - A. Phone call with who?
  - Q. The gentleman that did this inspection.
  - A. Oh, this guy?
- Q. Excuse me. Yeah. Jack McNeal. If you'll look at the third page, rather, there it has a heading that says Protection. Do you see that?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And remember, this would have been somewhere around, you know, May through July is the time frame of 2015. And it asks -- it says currently tagged fire extinguishers, yes.

Do you recall telling Mr. McNeal that there were currently tagged fire extinguishers in the facility?

- A. I don't know if I said tagged, but if he would have asked, I would have told him there was fire extinguishers, yes.
- Q. Okay. And it says building contains fire detection system, and it says no.

Do you recall that being the case or telling Mr. McNeal that?

- A. I don't -- I don't recall that, but I probably would have told him that there was not a fire detection system, yes.
- Q. Okay. Do you include smoke detection in fire detection in your mind?
  - A. Not as a system, no.

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- Q. Okay. So that wouldn't be inquiring to you whether there were smoke detecters?
- A. No. But I stated right down there that there was smoke detectors.
- Q. Right. That's what I'm trying to see, because here it says no.
- A. I'm in the construction industry, so to me a smoke detection system is when a fire detection company comes in, puts them everywhere, runs wires and

everything is integrated and it calls the fire department. That's a fire detection system to me.

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- Q. Okay. Okay. All right. I can see that.

  That may be actually the case. So down in the comment area, again, just review that. And is this -- do you recall providing that information to the inspector or that it's consistent with what your understanding was at the time? Under the comments it says there are fire extinguishers and smoke detectors in all units according to the owner. Is that true at the time?
- A. I don't recall saying that, but that's pretty accurate. It sounds like exactly what I would say.
- Q. All right. It says the fire extinguishers and smoke detectors are maintained and inspected by the maintenance man at the time of new tenants moving in and out, which is consistent with what you said a moment ago. Is that correct?
  - A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. And the smoke detectors are all battery operated. All right. The information on the special hazards, does that look like information that you would have provided to him or that was consistent with what you believe was the case at the time?
- And I'll read it. It says: There are personal grills for cooking on the premises. The policy is that

41 1 grills must be at least ten feet from the building when 2 being used. 3 Are you asking if I told him that? Α. 4 Q. Right. 5 I mean, that's what we told everybody, yes. Α. 6 Okay. And that was the case at the time; Q. 7 true? I'm sorry. I don't understand. 8 Α. 9 Q. This was true at the time here in 2015? 10 That we told people to keep their grills away Α. 11 from the building? 12 Well, yes, or that you provided that information to the inspector. 13 14 Α. Oh. I assume that I did. I mean, that's what 15 he said I said. 16 Okay. All right. Okay. Let me ask you a few Q. 17 names here. Let me find a name here. Do you recall 18 visiting with a Detective Brian Dye? 19 Α. Yes. Okay. Do you know Mr. Dye? 20 Q. 21 Α. Yes. 22 Okay. I mean, you knew him prior to the fire Q. 23 and after, I assume. 24 Oh, yes. Small town. Α. 25 Q. Exactly. Okay. How many people are in Ponca

42 1 City? 2 Α. 25,000=ish. 3 25,000? Q. 4 Α. Yeah. 5 Okay. I lived for a time in Vinita, which is Q. 6 about 5,000. And yes. Everyone knew everybody. 7 We're not quite that small. But no. 8 I visited with Brian Dye on more than one occasion 9 about things. 10 Okay. Mr. Dye indicated that he did not 11 observe -- if he indicated that he did not observe any 12 smoke alarms throughout the building or fire 13 extinguishers, would he be wrong, after the fire? 14 Right after the fire? 15 Α. I would say he is probably correct. 16 Q. Okay. Because they were all pulled out? 17 Yes, sir. Α. 18 Q. Because of the remodel? 19 Yes, sir. Α. 20 Okay. Do you recall a padlock being on a rear Q. 21 door of the apartment complex? 22 Α. That's how we secured it, yes. 23 Q. Okay. Do you remember whether -- did you ever 24 learn that that padlock had been cut prior to the fire? I learned or I was told by somebody that -- or 25 Α.

maybe I saw it, but I don't know that it was cut. 1 2 My bad. I assumed. It says broken. Was 3 broken prior to? I believe, and I don't know that this is 4 Α. 5 correct, but I believe the hasp had been pried off of 6 the wall. I believe that I had seen that, but I didn't 7 know. I mean, I don't know that -- who did it. 8 Q. Okay. 9 Maybe the fire department, but maybe not 10 because somebody had to -- I mean, somebody got in the 11 building, obviously. 12 Okay. Okay. And was -- and help me with this. Mr.- -- I think it's Crawford. Is that the 13 14 maintenance man? 15 Α. Yes. 16 Was he -- he was still working for you for Q. that apartment complex at the time --17 18 Α. Yes. 19 Q. -- of the fire? 20 Α. Yes. 21 Okay. Okay. Did you happen to ask him or Q. 22 know from some experience when was the last time he was

A. I don't recall. I would -- I would assume that he had been there earlier that day working, but

there at the apartment complex before the fire?

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I asked you, I think, Mr. Fields, about a

prior fire and a prior claim. Did you have any other 1 2 claims on that property, property claims? 3 Not that I recall. Not that I recall. You said that you've had -- we talked a little 4 Q. 5 bit about some communications with Kevin Wilson, we think, but with the adjuster? 6 7 Α. Yes. 8 Ο. The adjuster from Great Lakes Insurance 9 Company? 10 Α. Yeah. 11 Did -- did you provide him with any lists of 12 any items that are particularly needed to be replaced 13 other than the building itself, like contents of some 14 kind or any claims related to that? 15 I don't believe I did, but I don't believe I 16 had contents insurance. It's a rental property. 17 Okay. So was there any other -- other than Ο. 18 the property loss itself, the building, was there any 19 other claim that you were making as a result of the 20 fire? 21 Α. I don't think so. 22 That you made? Okay. Q. 23 I don't think so. Α.

Did you make the claim through your agent?

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Q.

Α.

Yes.

- Q. Okay. And then he made the claim through to Great Lakes, and then from there it went on. Right?
- A. I don't know how that took place. I just told my insurance agent we had a problem.
- Q. Okay. Are you aware of any other -- scratch that.

We talked a moment ago about the City wanting to tear down the building; right?

A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. Okay. And that your attorney has stopped that for the moment?
  - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Is there anything else like that that is causing an issue with you with either the City or someone else from the standpoint of causing you harm or damage in some way?
  - A. I'm not sure that I understand the question.
- Q. I mean covered by the policy. Okay? If you know.

So let me ask that a little better than that. In your mind, the building is covered under the policy; right?

- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Because of the fire?
- 25 A. Yes, sir.

- Q. Is there some other type of claim that you think is covered under the policy as you sit here? I'm not locking you into it one way or the other.

  I'm just asking you if you --
  - A. I don't think so. Not that I'm aware of.
- Q. Okay. Okay. I'll give you an example. There are some policies -- and I'm not saying one way or the other on this one. But there are some policies that you have a loss of income.
  - A. Loss of rent. I got you.
  - Q. And that kind of thing.

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- A. I don't believe that I have that. I don't believe that I have that coverage. I don't know why I would have. I'm not -- it wasn't a concern of mine, so I don't think I do.
- Q. Okay. But it's not -- there isn't something else you've raised to the insurance company? And again, I'm not saying you have to. But I'm just asking if there was something else that you've raised with them.
  - A. No. I don't think so.
- Q. Okay. Has -- we've talked about you talking with the one fire inspector that came out with the --
  - A. Yes, sir.
  - Q. Okay. Have you provided any -- has anyone

else come and asked you questions about what happened with the fire other than what we've covered here today? For example, news people or some other company for some reason? A. I don't believe so. MR. LINSCOTT: Okay. Well, I think I'm done. I think I'm done. MR. JACKSON: Okay. No questions here. MR. LINSCOTT: Thank you for your time. (Proceedings ended at 11:11 a.m.) 

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1	<u>CERTIFICATE</u>	
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3		
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5	STATE OF OKLAHOMA ) ) ss.	
6	COUNTY OF KAY )	
7		
8	I, Sonya Kay Meneely, Certified Shorthand Reporter within and for the State of	
9	Oklahoma, do certify that the foregoing proceedings were taken at the time and place herein named; that the	
10	transcript is a true record of the proceedings as reported by me and thereafter transcribed into	
11	typewriting by computer.	
12	I do further certify that I am not counsel, attorney, or relative of either party, or	
13	clerk or stenographer of either party or of the attorney of either party, or otherwise interested in	
14	the event of this suit.	
15	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal at my office in Ponca City,	
16	Kay County, Oklahoma, this 1st day of April, 2021.	
17		
18		
19	SONYA KAY MENEELY, CSR	
20	Scribe Reporting Service PO Box 2534	
21	Ponca City, Oklahoma 74602	
22		
23		
24		
25		

# Case 5:21-cv-00986-G Document 40-1 Filed 09/01/22 Page 50 of 58

# **Limited Multi-Peril Survey**

If you have any questions about this report please contact Customer Care at 1-800-460-0723 ext. 707.

Ref #:

13009450

Policy #: CP00058570

Coverage: \$325,450.00

Client Name: M. J. Kelly of ARKANSAS - 202

Code:

Name:

Joshua Fields

Agt Name:

Location:

410 W Cleveland

Zac Swords Requested By: jbetts@mjkellyar.com

Inspected By: McNeal, Jack

Date: 05/11/2015

City: State: **PONCA CITY** OK Zip: 74601

Effective Inception/Renewal Date: 01/01/1900

Date: 05/20/2015

### Recommendation(s)

#### 2015-5-01

CH-2 During our survey there were deficiencies noted with the property. These included the following: Cracks in the exterior wall of the garage/storage buildings. Trees touching the storage buildings need to be trimmed. A window on the main building has been boarded over. A licensed contractor should be retained to evaluate and repair these deficiencies. There are cracks in the concrete blocks and mortar in both of the garage or storage buildings. The cracks are in the west side garage/storage building on the north and south ends.

#### 2015-5-02

A maintenance program should be implemented for the smoke detectors, with batteries being tested on a monthly basis and the batteries being completely replaced every six months. Written documentation should be retained regarding testing and replacement.

#### 2015-6-03

All exterior stairs having three or more steps should be provided with handrails on both sides to reduce the potential for falls. Handrails should be 34" to 38" in height with vertical members having no greater width

### FOR COMPLETION BY THE INSURED:

By signing this form, I	Josh	tields	(print name), certify that	at all

required recommendations found during the recently conducted inspection have

been fully complied with as of 7/23/15

(Insured - Signature)



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## Case 5:21-cv-00986-G Document 40-1 Filed 09/01/22 Page 51 of 58



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Ref#:

13009450

Policy #: CP00058570

Coverage: \$325,450.00

Client Name:

M. J. Kelly of ARKANSAS - 202

Code:

Name:

Joshua Fields

Zac Swords Agt Name:

Location: 410 W Cleveland

Requested By: jbetts@mjkellyar.com

Date: 05/11/2015

City: State: **PONCA CITY** OK Zip: 74601

Effective Inception/Renewal Date: 01/01/1900 Inspected By: McNeal, Jack

Date: 05/20/2015

### **Operations**

Who was Interviewed:

Mr. Joshua Fields- owner

Type of Occupancy:

Lodging

Years in Business:

10 yrs.

Hours of Operation:

24/7

Gross Receipts:

\$27,300

Insured is Building Owner or Tenant

Owner

#### Comment

The property is owned and managed by Mr. Joshua Fields. He has owned the property for approximately 10 years. The property consists of 8 apartments. One of the apartments is the residence for his full time maintenance man. The maintenance main pays no rent as part of his wages for maintaining the property. The annual gross receipts are approximately \$27,300 dollars.

### **Premises**

Construction:

Frame

Roof Type:

Shingles, Fiberglass

**Building Age:** 

55 yrs old

**Number of Stories** 

Type of Heating:

Central

Type of Fuel:

Gas Yes

Is It Vented:

Copper

Type of Wiring: (by interview)

Yes \*\*\*

Wiring Updates:

No

Condition of Building:

Any Unsafe Wiring Noted:

Fair \*\*\*

Housekeeping:

Good

Square Footage:

7,200 sq. ft.

#### Comment

The main building is two story of frame construction, with a brick veneer exterior. The building is approximately 55 years old. It is 7200 sf. There is central gas heating in the units, with window air conditioning. The wiring is all copper, and was completely updated in 2011. The building is noted to be in fair condition due to a boarded window on the rear of this building.

There are two joisted masonry structure used as garage/storage units in the rear of the property. They are 1257 sf and 1210 sf. They are noted to be in fair condition due to cracks in the exterior walls. Also there are trees touching the buildings.

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## Case 5:21-cv-00986-G Document 40-1 Filed 09/01/22 Page 52 of 58



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Joshua Fields

Name:

Location: 410 W Cleveland

Zac Swords Agt Name:

Code: Date: 05/11/2015

City:

**PONCA CITY** 

Requested By: jbetts@mjkellyar.com Effective Inception/Renewal Date: 01/01/1900

State:

OK Zip: 74601

Coverage: \$325,450.00

Inspected By: McNeal, Jack

Date: 05/20/2015

### Protection

Is Building In City Limits:

Yes

Distance to Fire Hydrant:

0-500

Distance to Fire Department:

0-3 miles

Currently Tagged Fire Extinguisher(s):

Yes

Building Contains Fire Detection System:

No

Building Contains Sprinkler System:

No

Burglar Alarm System:

No

If Yes, Is it monitored by central station:

No

#### Comment

There are fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors in all units, according to the owner. The fire extinguishers and smoke detectors are maintained and inspected by the maintenance man at the time of new tenants moving in, or out. The smoke detectors are all battery operated.

### Special Hazards

Any Special Hazards: (If Yes Explain)

Yes \*\*\*

### Comment

There are personal grills for cooking on the premises. The policy is that grills must be at least 10 feet from the building when being used.

#### Liability

Exit Doors Swing Outward:

No \*\*\*

Lighted Exit Signs:

No No

Emergency Lights:

Yes

Any Stairs Present:

Yes \*\*\*

If Yes. Interior/Exterior:

Floors Free of Disruptions:

Interior

If Yes, Condition:

Good

Exterior Trip or Fall Hazards:

No

Condition of Parking Lot:

Good

Exterior Lighting:

Good

#### Comment

The exit doors pen inward. There are interior stairs leading to the second floor. The stairs appear to be in good condition and equipped with a handrail, however there are no vertical members. There is an emergency exit on the second floor that leads to a fire escape.

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# Case 5:21-cv-00986-G Document 40-1 Filed 09/01/22 Page 53 of 58



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Location: 410 W Cleveland

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State:

Coverage: \$325,450.00

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Inspected By: McNeal, Jack

Date: 05/11/2015

Date: 05/20/2015

### Note(s)

Front



#### Note(s)

Front



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# Case 5:21-cv-00986-G Document 40-1 Filed 09/01/22 Page 54 of 58



# Limited Multi-Peril Survey

If you have any questions about this report please contact Customer Care at 1-800-460-0723 ext. 707.

Ref#: Name: 13009450

Policy #: CP00058570

Joshua Fields

Location: 410 W Cleveland City:

**PONCA CITY** 

State:

Coverage: \$325,450.00 OK Zip: 74601

Client Name:

M. J. Kelly of ARKANSAS - 202

Zac Swords Agt Name:

Requested By: jbetts@mjkellyar.com

Effective Inception/Renewal Date: 01/01/1900

Inspected By: McNeal, Jack

Code: Date: 05/11/2015

Date: 05/20/2015

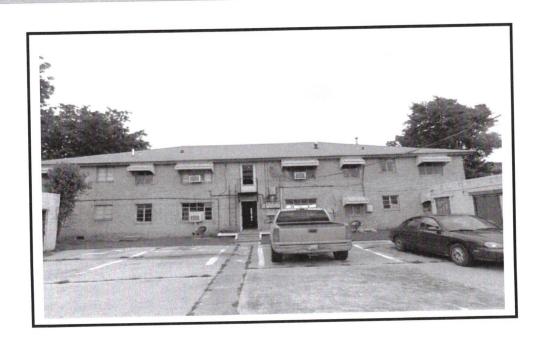
### Note(s)

#### Inside stairway



### Note(s)

#### Rear



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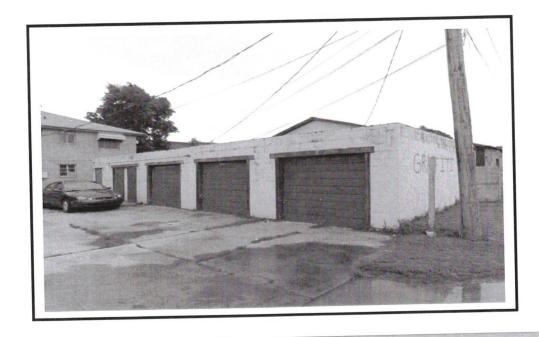
Effective Inception/Renewal Date: 01/01/1900

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Date: 05/11/2015 Date: 05/20/2015

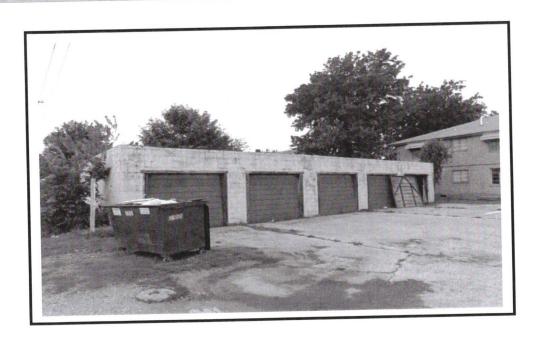
Note(s)

**Building 2** 



### Note(s)

**Building 3** 



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**PONCA CITY** 

State: OK Zip: 74601

Zip: 74601 Coverage: \$325,450.00

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Agt Name: Zac Swords

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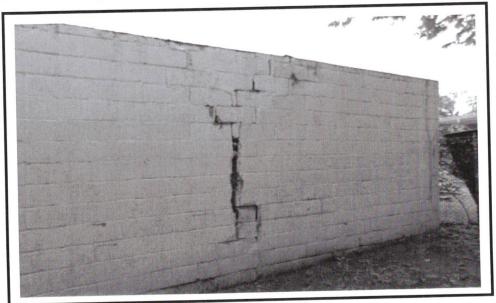
## Note(s)

# Overgrown bushes rear west side garage



### Note(s)

## Craked concrete blocks west side garage



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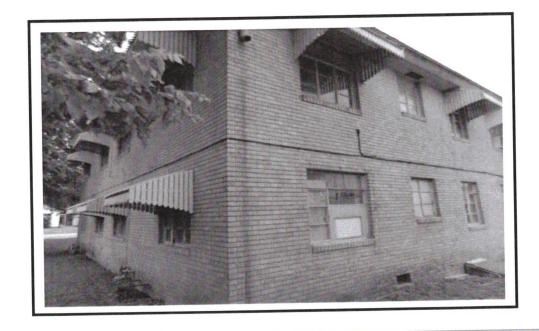
Inspected By: McNeal, Jack

Code: Date: 05/11/2015

Date: 05/20/2015

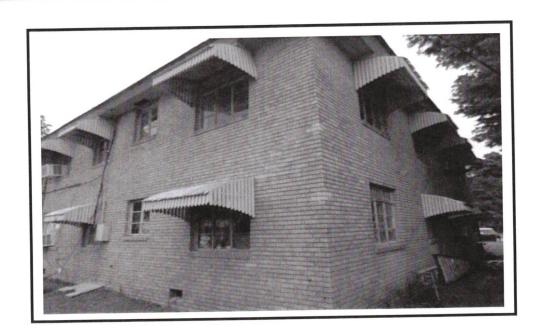
### Note(s)

Rear



### Note(s)

Rear



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### Note(s)

Peeling paint all fascia



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